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The first is connected with Vergil's famous lines on Marcellus in Aeneid 6. The story goes—and there is no reason for disbelieving it—that when Vergil first read these verses, Marcellus's mother was so affected that he was unable to finish.

It was also said—and, though this is not so well attested, it is not improbable in itself—that on account of that passage, Augustus gave Vergil a handsome present. Later we discover that Augustus paid Vergil by the line, and, as time goes on, the sum continues to increase, until finally the total amounts up to something over a million in our money. Thus, the impecunious grammarian of the Middle Ages cheated his fancy with a mirage of Imperial gold, just as the Elder Dumas, always hard up for money, wrote a novel the hero of which is a proverb of wealth.

The second is the familiar story of the four unfinished verses all beginning with, *Sic vos non vobis*. Certain poetasters had laid claim to some of Vergil's anonymous verses, notably one Bathyllus, and Augustus had, therefore, rewarded them with riches and honors. Vergil was not pleased. He, therefore, posted the four verses all beginning with *Sic vos non vobis*, and asked his rivals to complete them. Nobody was able to solve this wonderful puzzle. Then Vergil stepped forward and completed them as follows:

Hos ego versiculos feci: tulit alter honores:
 Sic vos non vobis nidificatis aves.
 Sic vos non vobis vellera fertis oves.
 Sic vos non vobis mellificatis apes.
 Sic vos non vobis fertis aratra boves.

I made these verses: others won the praise:

You others then are birds that stole your nests.
 You others then are sheep in borrowed fleece.
 You others then are bees that steal their sweets.
 You others then strange kine that graze abroad.

The first distich is older than the fifth century. The others are later variations of it. It is needless to say that the story is more suggestive of Haroun Alraschid than of Caesar Augustus. Yet it is repeated in perfect good faith by an American editor whose book is still for sale. The phrase itself, *Sic vos non vobis*, has a tradition of its own in English literature which dates from not later than the time of Elizabeth.

(To be concluded)

THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY. KIRBY FLOWER SMITH.

REVIEW

Georgius Agricola: *De Re Metallica*. Translated from the first Latin edition of 1556 with Biographical Introduction, Annotations and Appendices upon the Development of Mining Methods, Metallurgical Processes, Geology, Mineralogy and Mining Law from the earliest times to the 16th century. By Herbert Clark Hoover and Lou Henry Hoover. Published for the Translators, by The Mining Magazine, Salisbury House, London, E. C. (1912). 4to. Pp. XXXII + 640.

The head of the Belgian Relief Commission, who is doing such a marvellous philanthropic work in feeding

and clothing millions of destitute people, Herbert Clark Hoover, is an eminent mining engineer, who was graduated with the first class from Stanford University in 1895. His wife took her degree at the same institution three years later.

Mr. and Mrs. Hoover have had a rich and varied experience in the mining districts of Australia, China, Russia and America, and for some years past have maintained two homes, one in London, England, and the other in California. The latter has enabled Mr. Hoover to act as a trustee of Stanford University, and to take part in other public activities on this side of the Atlantic.

Unlike many scientific men of the day, Mr. Hoover is interested not only in the present methods used by mining engineers, but also in the past history and development of his science. It is this interest that has led him and his accomplished wife to undertake the great task of translating for the first time into English this important work of the sixteenth century, by George Bauer, whose name is Latinized as Agricola.

Bauer was born at Glauchau, Saxony, in 1494, and was graduated from the University of Leipsic, where he later became a lecturer. In 1518 he was appointed to teach Latin and Greek at Zwickau, where he prepared and published a Latin Grammar. After three years spent in Italy he was chosen town physician at Joachimsthal, a small city of Bohemia, only fifty miles from Freiberg, then the center of the most prolific metal-mining district of Central Europe. In 1533 he became city-physician of Chemnitz in Saxony and published *De Mensuris et Ponderibus*, a discussion of Roman and Greek weights and measures. About the same time he began the *De Re Metallica*, a work which was not published until 1556, a year after his death.

These and many other interesting facts are given in an Introduction, which includes an account of "Agricola's intellectual attainments and position in science".

Agricola's education was the most thorough that his time afforded in the classics, philosophy, medicine, and sciences generally. Further, his writings disclose a most exhaustive knowledge not only of an extraordinary range of classical literature, but also of obscure manuscripts buried in the public libraries of Europe. That his general learning was held to be of a high order is amply evidenced from the correspondence of the other scholars of his time—Erasmus, Melancthon, Meurer, Fabricius, and others.

In his day "the whole thought of the learned world still flowed from the Greeks", but, "had he not radically departed from the teachings of the Peripatetic school, his work would have been no contribution to the development of science". As it is, he was the one

to fight the first battle in science over the results of observation *versus* inductive speculation. . . . He was the first to found any of the natural sciences upon research and observation, as opposed to previous fruitless speculation.

He was also the first to attempt a systematic treatment of mineralogy, in which field his only predecessors were Theophrastus, Dioscorides and Albertus Magnus. His work *De Re Metallica* remained the standard for nearly two centuries.

Translations of the *De Re Metallica* have been published in Germany and Italy, but this is the first rendering in English. The book, however, is far from being a mere translation. Every page gives evidence of great industry in research, for there are copious footnotes, for all of which Mr. Hoover is responsible, and which, containing as they do a great mass of valuable information, will probably be considered by some the most important material to be found in the book. There are careful appendices on Agricola's works, on weights and measures, and on the ancient authors consulted, while an excellent index, covering eighteen pages, shows how readily the book may be used for reference purposes.

Most of the work is more or less technical, and the success of the translation is largely due to the fact that Mr. Hoover is an expert on the subject. Thus the German translation, though prepared by a university professor,

is a wretched work, by one who knew nothing of the science, and who more especially had no appreciation of the peculiar Latin terms coined by Agricola, most of which he rendered literally. It is a sad commentary on his countrymen that no correct German translation exists.

The part that will be of most interest to the layman is Book I, which deals with certain questions of a general interest. Thus the author upholds the dignity

of the mining profession, and points out with how many arts and sciences a miner should be acquainted. An unusually large number of passages from the Classics are cited in praise or blame of the precious metals, the writer's object being to prove that the miner's calling "excels in honor and dignity that of the merchant trading for lucre, while it is not less noble, though far more profitable, than agriculture".

In this remarkable Book or chapter, as we should rather call it, there are citations from, or references to, at least thirty Greek and Latin writers. This is the only part of the work in which the reviewer has had an opportunity to compare the translation with the original, but, judging from it, we may claim that the work is uncommonly well done, the rendering being all the more creditable because of the serious difficulties which the translators had to encounter. The Latinity of Agricola is comparatively smooth and pure, but in the handling of so technical a subject it was inevitable that the descriptions given should "often take the form of House-that-Jack-built sentences", and that much of the terminology should be specially coined, so that no mere Latinist could hope to grapple successfully with the task which Mr. and Mrs. Hoover have so ably performed.

We may add that the work is an *édition de luxe*. It is a superb piece of book-making, being bound in parchment, and reproducing the fine original in the size and character of the page. The old wood-cuts are also taken over from the Latin work, and must prove extremely interesting to all readers, especially to those who have any knowledge of mining methods.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY,
California.

H. RUSHTON FAIRCLOUGH.

THE SPARROW

The sparrow has no holiday gear,
Nor whistles a jolly stave;
But in romance no buccaneer
Has ever been so brave.

He scorns your threats and stays to scoff,
He challenges and usurps.
Does blustering winter scare him off?
He tilts his head and chirps.

He meets the North's artilleries
As cool as Bonaparte;
No hungry siege of frost can freeze
The courage in his heart.

While refugees take gentle cheer
In land of palm and spice,
He drudges in the trenches here
With wings encased in ice.

Then, when Spring starts her northern drive,
And Winter's long line reels,
The foppish refugees arrive
Fresh from the far Antilles.

PRO PASSERE

Non est versicolor passeribus toga,
nec de pectoribus dulce fluit melos:
non pirata tamen,—fabula quem notat,
forti passere fortior.

Ridens nil metuit verba minacia,
audax provocat et fortiter occupat.
Quid? Pellunt hiemis verbera Passerem?
extollit caput—et canit!

Tormentis Boreae protinus obicit
immotos animos, ut Bonapartius:
ieiuno glacies non poterit gelu
cor constringere passeris.

Condimenta petunt dum volucres vagae
palmarumque nemus sub Iove torrido,
in fossis subeunt ardua passeris.
alas dum glacies tegit.

Mox ut, signa ferens in Boreae plagas,
trusit Ver gelidam militiam loco,
cantatrix volucrum turba sibi placens
ex oris redit Indicis.